

all the evidence considered together may be convincing evidence.

(c) *Board decision.* When the Board has convincing evidence of the facts that must be proven, or when it is clear that the evidence provided does not prove the necessary facts, the Board will make a formal decision about the applicant's rights to benefits.

**§219.9 Evidence, information, and records filed with the Board.**

The Railroad Retirement Act provides criminal penalties for any persons who misrepresent the facts or make false statements to obtain payments for themselves or someone else. All evidence and documents given to the Board are kept confidential and are not disclosed to anyone but the person who submitted them, except under the rules described in part 200 of this chapter.

**Subpart B—Evidence of Age and Death**

**§219.20 When evidence of age is required.**

(a) Evidence of age is required when an employee applies for an annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act or for Medicare coverage under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

(b) Evidence of age is also required from a person who applies for a spouse's or divorced spouse's, widow's, widower's, surviving divorced spouse's, parent's, or child's annuity under the Railroad Retirement Act, or for Medicare coverage under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

**§219.21 Types of evidence to prove age.**

(a) *Preferred evidence.* The best type of evidence to prove a claimant's age is—

- (1) A birth certificate recorded before age 5;
- (2) A church record of birth or baptism recorded before age 5; or
- (3) Notification of registration of birth made before age 5.

(b) *Other evidence of age.* If an individual cannot obtain preferred evidence of age, he or she will be asked to submit other convincing evidence to prove age. The other evidence may be

one or more of the following records, with the records of highest value listed first:

- (1) Hospital birth record or certificate.
- (2) Physician's or midwife's birth record.
- (3) Bible or other family record.
- (4) Naturalization record.
- (5) Military record.
- (6) Immigration record.
- (7) Passport.
- (8) Selective service registration record.
- (9) Census record.
- (10) School record.
- (11) Vaccination record.
- (12) Insurance record.
- (13) Labor union or fraternal record.
- (14) Employer's record.
- (15) Marriage record.

(16) A statement signed by the individual giving the reason why he or she cannot obtain other convincing evidence of age and the sworn statements of two other persons who have personal knowledge of the age that the individual is trying to prove.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3220-0106)

**§219.22 When evidence of death is required.**

(a) *When evidence of the employee's death is required.* Evidence to prove the employee's death is always required for payment of any type of survivor annuity or lump-sum payment based on the deceased employee's record. See parts 216 and 234 for types of survivor payments.

(b) *When evidence to prove death of other persons is required.* Evidence to prove the death of persons other than the employee is required when—

- (1) A claimant, who is eligible for survivor benefits, dies after the employee;
- (2) A residual lump sum (see part 234 of this chapter) is payable and a person whom the employee named to receive all or part of this payment dies before the employee, or such person dies after the employee but before receiving his or her share of the benefit; or
- (3) There is reasonable doubt of the death of—

(i) Any person who, if alive, has priority over the applicant;